UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/607
31 July 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 30 JULY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UZBEKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 23 July 1996 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, concerning the present situation in Afghanistan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fatikh TESHABAEV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Letter dated 23 July 1996 from the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan addressed to the President of the Security Council

Allow me to draw your attention to one of today's most urgent problems - the ongoing war in Afghanistan. I have raised this problem on a number of occasions, including at sessions of the General Assembly.

Lately, the situation in Afghanistan and around it is taking a particularly dangerous turn. The real victim of these bloody events is, first and foremost, the Afghan people, which continues to suffer from the endless devastation and violence. The fact that, since the outbreak of the war, more than one million civilians have died and millions have become refugees is an indication of the magnitude of the tragedy.

Today it is absolutely insufficient to concentrate only on the need for national reconciliation within Afghanistan as the principal means of a settlement. We are deeply convinced that questions relating to the search for a constructive solution of the Afghan problem should today be the centre of attention of the international community and the Security Council and should become a concrete object of the world Powers' attention.

The drug trafficking, terrorism, violence and arms trafficking that have accompanied the Afghan crisis, and the fact that a whole generation of Afghans has no idea of what peaceful life and creativity are, are all parts of a universal problem.

In its initiative on the imposition of an arms embargo against Afghanistan at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, Uzbekistan considered that a principled decision by the Security Council on this question would reflect the international community's solemn determination to put an end to the many years of war in that country. Unfortunately, today we must state that arms deliveries to Afghanistan are not decreasing; on the contrary, they are becoming even more numerous.

Uzbekistan highly appreciates the efforts of the United Nations and the Security Council to find ways of settling the conflict in Afghanistan and today believes that it has the right to call upon the international community and the leading Powers to pay special attention to the Afghan problem.

Today it is quite clear that the imposition of a general and complete arms embargo against Afghanistan must become an indispensable condition for ending the conflict in Afghanistan. I should like to mention, in particular, that preliminary consultations with the members of the Security Council, the States of the region and the heads of the European Union indicate that they recognize the need for the imposition of an arms embargo against Afghanistan.

I am relying on your support and assistance in the consideration of this question at a meeting of the Security Council and in the adoption of a relevant resolution. It is our firm conviction that such a decision will help strengthen peace and stability not only in the region but also throughout the world.

The draft Security Council resolution will be submitted in accordance with the existing procedure by Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

(Signed) Islam KARIMOV
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan